

## Daily Economic News Summary: 12 November 2018

### **1. RBI Vs Government: The 18 Wise Men Tasked With Supervision Of The Mint Street**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

As an unprecedented fight plays out between the RBI and the government, it is the central bank's 18 board members who are being keenly watched for their next course of action -- they are not only central bankers and government officials but also business leaders, economists and activists. The RBI board is scheduled to meet next on November 19 amid an ongoing tussle with the government on multiple fronts. As per the RBI website, its central board currently has 18 members, though the provision is that it can go up to 21.

### **2. Progress Report: RBI, Government Talk Amid Tension**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

While there is no thaw in relations between New Delhi and Mint Street, there is progress on two fronts on lending a helping hand to small businessmen and a selective loosening of lending curbs on some of the weaker banks. First, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is understood to have agreed to explore a loan restructuring package for small and medium enterprises after analysing the data that would be obtained from lending banks. Second, the regulator would consider reviewing the prompt corrective action (PCA) rules for banks which have shown some improvement in financials as on September 30.

### **3. India Hopes To Restart Its Projects In Maldives**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

India will seek to kickstart its projects in the Maldives during PM Modi's daylong visit to Male on November 17 to attend Ibu Solih's swearing-in ceremony. The projects, including in the defence sector, were stalled under the regime of outgoing President Abdulla Yameen. India will seek to kickstart its projects in the Maldives during PM Modi's daylong visit to Male on November 17 to attend Ibu Solih's swearing-in ceremony. The projects, including in the defence sector, were stalled under the regime of outgoing President Abdulla Yameen.

#### **4. RCEP Leaders To Call For Early Conclusion Of Mega-Trade Pact**

**Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))**

Members of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), including the 10-member ASEAN, India and China, are likely to call for an expeditious conclusion of the mega-trade pact, instead of committing to a year-end deadline, when the heads of states meet in Singapore this week. There is no consensus amongst the member-countries agreeing to a package of deliverables by the year-end and hence it is unlikely to be pushed for negotiations on RCEP during the 33rd ASEAN Summit and other related Summits in Singapore this week, three persons, including two diplomats from member-countries, told *BusinessLine*.

#### **5. India Contracts 8 Lakh Tonnes Of Sugar Exports So Far**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

Saddled with surplus stock, sugar mills in India -- the world's second largest producer, have contracted to export about 8,00,000 tonnes of the sweetener so far to countries like Middle East and Sri Lanka, a government official said. Out of the total contracted quantity, raw sugar comprises 6,00,000 tonnes and the rest 2,00,000 tonnes is white sugar, the official added. "We are negotiating with various countries to boost export of sugar. China has agreed to buy and talks are on with Indonesia as well," the government official told PTI.

#### **6. India, Russia Banks To Discuss Rouble-Rupee Trade Today**

**Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))**

Representatives of at least three Russian banks operating in India, including Vnesheconombank, Sberbank and VTB, will meet executives from top Indian banks in Mumbai on 12 November to discuss rupee-rouble settlements between businesses of the two countries. According to sources close to the development, the meeting being organised by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) will also see participation from the RBI and Russia's central bank representatives. India and Russia have been trying to establish mechanisms for trade in national currencies, bypassing the US dollar, for about a decade, but there has been little progress on the ground.

### **7. Sebi Shortlists 7 Firms To Beef Up Its Surveillance Systems**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has shortlisted seven firms, including Wipro Ltd and L&T Infotech Ltd, to build a private data storage cloud, automate its inspection of brokers and enhance analytics capabilities, as the regulator is eyeing a technological leap in surveillance and investigation functions. Other firms on the shortlist are Accenture Solutions, Capgemini Technology Services India, Hewlett Packard Enterprises (India), EIT Services India and Tharavu Technologies. Sebi had in August invited expression of interests (EoIs) from companies for enhancement of analytical capabilities and setting up of private cloud to provide infrastructure, storage and computing capacity to different upcoming projects.

### **8. India Dismisses US' Notification That It Has Breached Cotton MPS**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

India has dismissed a counter notification issued by the US alleging New Delhi's market price support (MPS) for cotton breached the permitted levels of trade-distorting domestic support in the past seven years at the World Trade Organization (WTO), people familiar with the development said. The US has alleged that India paid trade-distorting subsidies to its cotton farmers well in excess of the limit of 10% for developing countries. "It appears that India provides MPS for cotton vastly in excess of what it has reported to the WTO," the US said in its nine-page notification that will be made public on 12 November.

### **9. Draft Report For UN: India Set To Meet 2 Of Its 3 Paris Agreement Goals**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

India is well on the trajectory to achieve two of its three commitments under the Paris Agreement ahead of the 2030 deadline, the government is set to inform the global community by December. This assessment forms part of a report that India will submit to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change this year. The report, called the Second Biennial Update Report, enumerates India's latest emission data and also what kind of threats the country is already facing from climate change. *Business Standard* reviewed a draft of the report prepared by the Union environment, forests and climate change ministry. The draft will go through a round of inter-ministerial consultations before it is finalised.

### **10. Govt Plans To Set Up Electric Cars Charging Station At Petrol Pumps**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

The power ministry would soon bring an electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure policy, which will also allow individuals to set up charging station for commercial use to boost e-mobility, said Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on 11 November. "We have circulated the EV Charging Policy for comments (among other department/ministries). The second line of the policy says that everybody is free to set up EV charging station," Singh told reporters at International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (Inspire).

### **11. Tripura Govt To Start Talks To Buy 26% IL&FS Shares Of Palatana Gas Thermal Power Project**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

The Tripura government will soon start dialogue for purchase of 26 percent equity shares of the Palatana gas thermal power project from the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS). The 726.6 MW gas-based power project, run by ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC), was formally started in 2014 as a joint venture of the ONGC, the IDFC, the IL&FS and the Tripura government. "The state of Tripura owns 0.5 percent share in the project. We have come to know from the central government that the IL&FS will offload its entire 26 per cent share. We are in the process of opening dialogue with them to buy all the shares because the Palatana power project is a very profitable company," Law Minister Ratan Lal Nath told reporters on 9 November.